



**NEVADA GEAR UP STATE GRANT
YEAR ONE UPDATE
JULY 15, 2002**

Major accomplishments in Year One include:

- Each of the thirteen target Gear Up middle schools submitted a quality application to NDE on November 30, 2001. These plans included a variety of academic strategies ranging from implementing accelerated math and reading programs, reducing class size in math classes, providing extra instructional and tutoring time, implementing or expanding mentorship programs, providing parent information sessions with translators, providing motivational speakers, resources for summer programs, implementing Saturday sessions, enhancing and building career development opportunities. The schools have embarked on their Gear Up partnership with enthusiasm and an action-oriented approach to starting up programs at a rapid rate. Two thousand seven hundred sixty multi-ethnic students were enrolled in the 7th grade in Gear Up middle schools on Nevada's official student enrollment count day, the last Friday of September, 2001.
- Nevada has four regions which align with our college system which includes seven postsecondary institutions: four community colleges, one college and two universities. The 7th grade Gear Up cohort made twenty-seven campus visits this spring. (Many schools visited two or more college campuses.)
- Nevada's Fiscal agent, Nevada Department of Education, established the Gear Up office on October 1, 2001 and hired a state coordinator. The Administrative Assistant III and Grants/Program Analyst were hired in February and March, 2002.
- The Gear Up Council serves as the governing body of Nevada's Gear Up Program. Their responsibilities include: policy making for scholarship eligibility and requirements; providing project oversight; reviewing evaluation information; and authorizing major redirections of project activities. The Gear Up Council members represent major stakeholders such as the Governor's Office, State Treasurer, Chancellor of the University and Community College System of Nevada and the State Superintendent of Public Instruction. Twenty-one members attended the first meeting, which was held Tuesday, March 26, 2002.

- The Gear Up Leadership Team is composed of representatives from business, post-secondary and K-12 education. Immediate implementation issues have been discussed including setting up the subgrant application and award process, discussion of cost matching, development of additional business partners, and distribution of subgrant funds for college visits. Members of this team attended the Gear Up Capacity Building Conference in Phoenix, Arizona in February, 2002.
- The Nevada Gear Up Program encompasses two evaluation processes: The Quantitative Evaluation will focus on student participation, benchmarks and program measures. There will be a complete analysis of all data collected at the end of each fiscal year of the project. The Qualitative Evaluation will focus on learning how Gear Up students view college initially and how the project impacts students. The goal is to interview at least one educator, parent and student per school three times a year to gain a personal view of the program's services and impact.
- The Treasurer's Office Deputy Director met with the Gear Up Coordinator in March and May, 2002 to discuss the Gear Up Trust account that will be set up in summer, 2002. The Treasurer's office is currently researching the most viable financial investment trust for Gear Up resources. A decision will be made in the near future. There has also been coordination with the Nevada Millennium Scholarship Executive Director and that program is also administered from the Treasurer's Office.
- An update on the Gear Up Program was presented to the Nevada State Board of Education on April 13, 2002 prior to the submission of the Annual Performance Report to the USDOE Office of Postsecondary Education.
- Gear Up partners include Wells Fargo Bank, Nevada. Wells Fargo will provide \$500,000 in matching scholarships over the next 5 years. USA Funds, Phoenix, Arizona, has provided \$50,000 in 2002 to promote middle and high school student access to postsecondary education.
- Parent Involvement is a major facet of Gear Up and parents statewide have demonstrated support by attending parent meetings, classes, completing surveys and signing parent/student contracts.
- Nevada's budget for Year One is \$1,986,824.00. This amount is matched with approximately \$2 million in Nevada resources.

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